

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 23, 2021
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others participating via zoom: Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Brittany Walsh, James Kelly, David Seligman, Lyn Smith, Juliette Haas, Chuck Ogden, Marj Wexler, Eileen Vining, Laura Allen.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

A moment of silence was held in the recognition of the death of James Lamme who had been a long time town official in multiple roles.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 9 and 16 meetings were accepted as amended. The July 16, 2020 minutes were amended to show the correct vote count of Egremont's voters approving the legalization of recreational marijuana.

SCHEDULES ISSUES:

The Board conducted a final interview with Brittany Walsh for the position of Police Department Administrative Assistant. The Human Resources Committee unanimously recommended that Ms. Walsh be hired for the position. The Board voted unanimously to hire Ms. Walsh for the position of Police Department Administrative Assistant at the hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour for no more than 19 hours per week.

The Board discussed with Architect Lyn Smith the best option for a handicapped ramp at the Library. It was determined that the back of the building, requiring the moving of the Propane tanks to the other side of the building, with a landing coming to the current side door was the most appropriate location and that a wooden structure with black iron railings was best. The ramp will be a 40' scissor ramp. A blacktop handicapped parking space will be placed so as to not interfere with the septic tank. Lyn reviewed the structural repairs that are needed as the floor is sagging in at least two areas and the belfry has substantial deterioration. The project will also include making the back vestibule level with the library floors and upgrading the restroom to be handicapped accessible. The project currently includes interior painting, new carpet and a new roof as well. All mechanicals will be brought up to code. The grant application, through the Mass Historical Commission's preservation fund, is due March 19, 2021. The grant is a 50% matching program. The current estimated of the Town's share, based on 2014 figures, is a minimum of \$150,000. The Town will need to approve its share at the Annual Town Meeting and will also need to approve a preservation deed restriction in perpetuity. The building currently has a 10 year restriction attached to it. Lyn will look at exterior lighting as well as interior.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Kelly presented the draft Forest Stewardship Management Plan for the town's woodland property on Jug End Road/Mount Washington Road. The Board did not have adequate time to read the draft so discussion was limited. The finalization of the plan will allow the town to move forward with

forest management, and more importantly, apply for grants for invasive control, boundary line posting, etc. The deadline for filing is June at the latest. The cost for the drafting of this plan was paid for by a grant obtained by David Seligman. The Board needs to review the goals, which include a timber harvest. Final review of the plan was referred to the March 9 meeting.

The Board reviewed the FY 2022 proposed fire services fee to Mount Washington. The amount proposed, \$30,821.80, is based on the budget submitted by Fire Chief Schneider and included the final payment on the rescue truck. It does not include a payment on a new proposed fire truck as that would not be made until FY 23.

Juliette Haas has presented a list of names to be appointed to the Municipal Vulnerability Program Planning Committee. The list of 13 names included town officials and representatives from key groups in Egremont. The Board felt that a large committee was unwieldy and suggested that a core or executive committee be formed from the names presented. It was also suggested that someone from a recreationally centered business be included as well as someone from the farming community. Juliette noted that a certified provider who will facilitate the group has to be hired. A discussion ensued around the costs of the provider and program and the grants. Juliette will send the Board the criteria for the planning committee. The grant program doesn't start accepting applications until April.

The Board adopted guidelines and protocols for use of zoom for town board/committee meetings. (Attached) The guidelines/protocols are to help in facilitating problem free zoom meetings.

COVID-19:

The Assessors have asked, again, if they could have more than one person in the office at a time if they all got vaccinated. All agreed that until the science dictates otherwise the current protocols on one person in the office at time will remain in effect.

It was noted that there are currently no appointments available in the area for vaccination though an update is due at 12noon.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The Board should be receiving the final documents for broadband next week.

A School Consolidation Planning Board meeting is scheduled for March 9.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

It was noted that after a vote of 2 in favor and 1 abstention and article to adopt the Community Preservation Act in on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

A representative of the Southern Berkshire Ambulance will be attending the March 2 meeting of the Board to discuss the FY 22 request for a services fee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may

obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.